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DDP(2) Attached is press on Ambassador Godley's appearance today before the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee looking into US commitments abroad. The Agency gets mentioned. Maury and Goodwin have copies.

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1550 : INDOCHINA-AMBASSADOR (425-TWO TAKES):  
WASHINGTON, JULY 21 (REUTERS)--AMBASSADOR TO LAOS G. MCMURTRIE GODLEY, WHO HAS BEEN DESCRIBED IN THE SENATE AS A PROCONSUL DIRECTING AN UNDERCOVER WAR, TESTIFIED IN UNUSUAL CONDITIONS OF SECRECY BEFORE A SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE TODAY.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT REQUESTED THAT NO TRANSCRIPT BE KEPT OF THE HEARING, SAYING THAT THE LAOTIAN SITUATION WAS FLUID AND THE LEADERS OF THE OPPOSING FACTIONS APPEARED TO BE ON THE VERGE OF IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS.

25X 25X1A MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE, WHO HAD BEEN TRYING FOR FIVE MONTHS TO GET THE CAREER DIPLOMAT TO TESTIFY, RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO THE UNUSUAL REQUEST.

25X 25X1A THE STATE DEPARTMENT MADE ITS REQUEST IN A LETTER SAYING THAT PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA POUMA AND HIS HALF-BROTHER, PRINCE SOUVANOUVONG, THE HEAD OF THE PRO-COMMUNIST PATHET LAO, SEEM TO BE ON THE VERGE OF WHAT COULD BE VERY IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS.

ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM VIENTIANE EARLIER THIS MONTH SOUPHANOUVONG SUGGESTED A MEETING OF ALL FACTIONS IN LAOS.

THE LETTER FROM DAVID M. ABSHIRE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS, WAS SENT TO SENATOR STUART SYMINTON, D-MO., CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE UNITED STATES SECURITY AGREEMENTS AND COMMITMENTS ABROAD.

KMORE) AV CPM/EB

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NOR466 EPH382

1554 : 1ST ADD WASHINGTON INDOCHINA-AMBASSADOR:

X X X ABROAD

IT SAID THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVED GODLEY'S TESTIMONY WOULD BE AS SENSITIVE AS THAT COVERED IN SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE BRIEFINGS, FOR WHICH EITHER NO TRANSCRIPTS ARE MADE OR A SINGLE TRANSCRIPT IS TAKEN, THE TAPES DESTROYED, AND THE TRANSCRIPT RETAINED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

SYMINTON, WHO IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, SAID THE GROUND RULES WERE MORE STRINGENT THAN WHEN MEMBERS OF THE U.S. JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF TESTIFY BEFORE CLOSED-DOOR HEARINGS.

SEN. J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT, CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND A MEMBER OF THE SYMINTON SUB-GROUP WHICH HAS BEEN PROBING U.S. MILITARY INVOLVEMENTS OVERSEAS FOR MORE THAN A YEAR, WAS OPENLY IRRITATED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST, ESPECIALLY AS MEMBERS FEEL THE DEPARTMENT HAD STALLED IN BRINGING GODLEY BACK TO WASHINGTON TO TESTIFY.

FULBRIGHT SAID, "IT IS PART OF A DETERMINED MOVE ON THE PART OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH NOT TO COOPERATE WITH THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE." 103

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NOR462 EPG876

1537 : 2ND ADD WASHINGTON INDOCHINA-AMBASSADOR:

X X X COMMITTEE.):

GODLEY, WHO REFUSED TO COMMENT TO REPORTERS ON SYMINGTON'S PREVIOUS DESCRIPTIONS OF HIM AS A PROCONSUL, MADE HIS LONG-DALAYED APPEARANCE AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF BEHIND-THE-SCENES MOVED IN THE LAOTIAN CIVIL WAR.

SOUVANNOUVONG'S PROPOSAL FOR A MEETING FOLLOWED A REPORTED CABLE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE PATHET LAO SAYING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER TALKS WITH THE OTHER SIDE ABOUT A HALT TO BOMBING ANY AMERICAN PLANES IN LAOS, PARTICULARLY ALONG THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL.

BUT SOURCES SAID THE CABLE FELL SHORT OF PATHET LAO DEMANDS THAT ANY TALKS BE PRECEDED BY AN UNCONDITIONAL HALT TO THE BOMBING.

PRESIDENT NIXON SAID MONDAY THAT U.S. ACTIONS IN LAOS WOULD BE DIRECTED TO STOPPING THE FLOW OF SUPPLIES ALONG THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL AND WOULD BE CONFINED TO AIR ACTION. THERE WAS NO INTENTION OF USING GROUND FORCES TO STOP THE FLOW, HE ADDED.

POLAND, THE COMMUNIST MEMBER OF THE THREE-NATION INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION (I.C.C.) FOR LAOS, RECENTLY AGREED WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS, CANADA AND INDIA, TO JOIN IN NEW INITIATIVES TO END THE FIGHTING.

KMORE) NV CPM/EB

NOR464 EPH380

1547 : 3RD ADD WASHINGTON INDOCHINA-AMBASSADOR:

X X X FIGHTING

SYMINGTON SAID AFTER THE HEARING TUESDAY THAT HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT THE TWO HALF-BROTHERS WOULD HAVE MORE CONTACTS.

SYMINGTON AND FULBRIGHT SAID THAT GODLEY DID NOT ADD TO THE BASIC PICTURE OF U.S. OPERATIONS IN LAOS THAT EMERGED FROM CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS LAST OCTOBER.

THAT TRANSCRIPT, PUBLISHED IN APRIL AFTER A LONG WRANGLE WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OVER CENSORSHIP, SHOWED THAT THE U.S. HAS BEEN CONDUCTING TACTICAL AIR STRIKES IN SUPPORT OF THE ROYAL LAOTIAN GOVERNMENT SINCE 1964. THE OPERATIONS ARE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE U.S. AMBASSADOR.

SYMINGTON WOULD ONLY SAY THE PANEL INQUIRED INTO ALL ASPECTS OF THE U.S. OPERATIONS IN LAOS.

BUT FULBRIGHT SAID THAT GODLEY "GAVE US A FEW DETAILS ABOUT THE EXTENT OF THE C.I.A. OPERATIONS, INCLUDING THE ENORMOUS COST."

JOHN HANNAH, HEAD OF THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (A.I.D.) RECENTLY ADMITTED PUBLICLY THAT HIS AGENCY'S OPERATIONS IN LAOS HAD SOMETIMES BEEN USED AS A COVER BY THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

REUTERS AV CPM/EB

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U.S. SENATE

WASHINGTON (AP) - THE COLD WAR BETWEEN THE POWERFUL U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS AND THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION TURNED HOT TODAY.

TRADITIONALLY THE COMMITTEE HAS PLAYED A ROLE NEARLY AS IMPORTANT AS THE WHITE HOUSE AND STATE DEPARTMENT IN FOREIGN POLICY. THEN OPPOSITION TO WHITE HOUSE AND STATE DEPARTMENT POLICIES BY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN J. W. FULBRIGHT AND AMBASSADOR STUART SYMINGTON OF MISSOURI, BOTH DEMOCRATS, CHILLED INTRA-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS.

TODAY THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO LAOS, G. MCMURTRIE GODLEY, COULD BRIEF THE COMMITTEE ONLY UNDER COMPLETE SECRECY WITH ANY TRANSCRIPT OF THE BRIEFING FORBIDDEN. COMMITTEE MEMBERS SAW THIS RESTRICTION AS SIMPLYING THE ADMINISTRATION FELT THEY COULD NOT BE TRUSTED WITH SECRETS.

"THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A CALCULATED MOVE ON THE PART OF THE EXECUTIVE NOT TO COOPERATE IN THE TRADITIONAL MANNER WITH THE COMMITTEE," SAID FULBRIGHT.

SYMINGTON CALLED GODLEY "AN AMERICAN PRO-CONSUL" DIRECTING OPERATIONS OF EVERY KIND, INCLUDING MILITARY, IN LAOS.

THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES WILL NOT END WITH TODAY'S FLAREUP. SYMINGTON HINTED BROADLY THAT WHEN THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION COMES TO CONGRESS FOR FUNDS TO FINANCE U.S. ACTIVITIES OVERSEAS, CONGRESS WILL INSIST ON KNOWING FACTS NOW KEPT SECRET.

"I DON'T THINK CONGRESS SHOULD BE FORCED TO ACT IN A VACUUM WHEN IT COMES TO PUTTING OUT THE TAXPAYER'S MONEY," SYMINGTON COMMENTED CRISPLY.

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